RECORD BREAKING

SPAWN

301

image

301

DIGITAL EDITION

image COMICS PRESENTS:

"THE RECORD"

You hold in your hands the culmination of 27 years of working with this character, this title and Image Comics. Way back in 1992, Image Comics was formed by seven young men who decided to venture out and create characters that they would be able to control the destiny of.

For me, that character was Spawn and 27 years later, I'm still fully in control of that idea. What we did so many years ago, is still being achieved today.

I'm happy to say that in those 27 years, there have been many, ***MANY*** great creative people, who have helped bring this monumental moment and historic Spawn issue to the forefront.

Spawn 301 officially receives the title of "Longest Running Creator-Owned Comic Book" and for that, I will be forever indebted to the people who matter most...***YOU***, the readers and my fans! Without your support, ***NONE*** of this would have been possible. As much as we creators like to think we have skill and talent, without the support of folks like you, then we wouldn't have careers.

So I would like to end this by thanking ALL of you for joining me (at some point along the way) on this 27-year journey and I hope you'll continue to do so as we move forward with lots of surprises and new stories yet to be told in the Spawn mythos.

TODD

Dedicated to:

SPAWN FANS EVERYWHERE

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HE NEEDED CLOWN AND GODSEND TOGETHER.* TO HAVE AGENT'S FROM HEAVEN AND HELL STANDING SIDE-BY-SIDE TO MAKE HIS PLAN WORK.
I AM SPAWN!
YOUR TIME ON EARTH IS OVER!
*See issue 300 – Todd
I CONTROL YOUR SYMBIOTE NOW! NOT YOU!
IT'S GROWING MY POWERS ALREADY, SO I CAN RAISE MY ARMY.

A BATTALION OF HELL'S DEMONS APPEARS FROM THE SHADOWS.

I HOPE, FOR YOUR SAKE, YOU HAVE MORE THAN JUST THESE. BECAUSE IT WON'T BE ENOUGH.

YOU MAY CONTROL AN ARMY, BUT I'M A KING NOW.

KING OF THE DEAD!

AND I COMMAND MY PEOPLE TO RISE UP!

SHUK

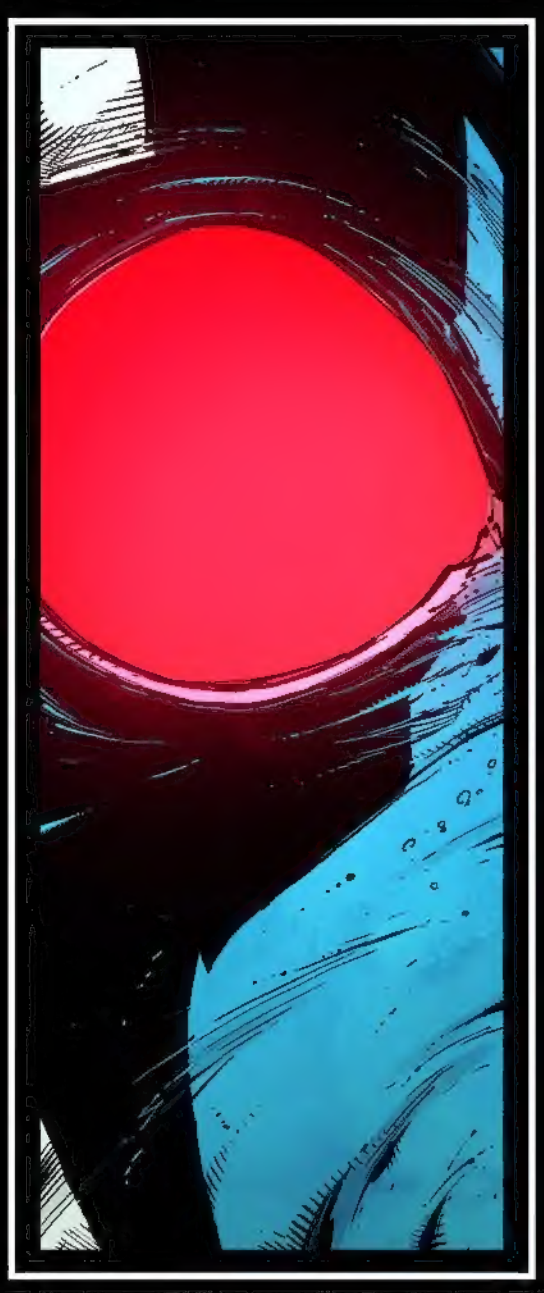
SHUK

FROM THE ASHES, HUNDREDS OF 'UNLIVING' CIRCLE CLOWN'S ARMY OF DEMONS.
ITS NOT POSSIBLE. THOSE POWERS COME FROM HELL AND I HAVE HIS COSTUME. I HOLD HIS POWER.

YOU'RE NOT HOLDING MY POWERS. YOU'RE HOLDING A BOMB.

THREE...

TWO...



ONE...

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AT THAT SAME MOMENT AROUND THE GLOBE, A SPARK IS TRIGGERED.

AND A NEW BREED OF HELLSPAWN HAS BEEN BORN!

IMAGE COMICS and TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS present ...

SPAWN®

RECORD BREAKING 301

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“Adversaries”

TEN DAYS LATER
THE U.N. IS STILL ATTEMPTING TO GAIN ENTRY AT THE NORTHERN BORDER, BUT WE'VE SENT THEM ON A FALSE MISSION TO GREECE BY LEAKING INTELLIGENCE THAT ONE OF THEIR BASES IS STOCKPILING PLUTONIUM
GOOD. THAT SHOULD BUY US ENOUGH TIME. ONCE THE SAMPLES HAVE BEEN GATHERED, THE CONSTRUCTION TEAM WILL FILL IN THE CRATER AND REPLANT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
THE EXPERTS FROM THE WORLD COUNCIL HAVE BEEN ABLE TO NARROW THE SEISMIC ACTIVITY ONLY TO A TWO-THOUSAND KILOMETER RADIUS
WE'LL BE LONG GONE BEFORE THEY EVEN ATTEMPT TO SEARCH THESE JUNGLES
HEAD-QUARTERS WILL DEAL WITH THE OTHER DETAILS AND REPORTING. BUT IF WE STAY ON SCHEDULE AND DO OUR JOBS ..

NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW THAT *ANYTHING* WAS HERE

I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING THAT'S WHY WE'RE DOING THIS INTERVIEW. BUT UNTIL CERTAIN OFFICIALS ARE REMOVED, I CAN'T TRUST THEY WON'T ATTEMPT TO ARREST ME AGAIN

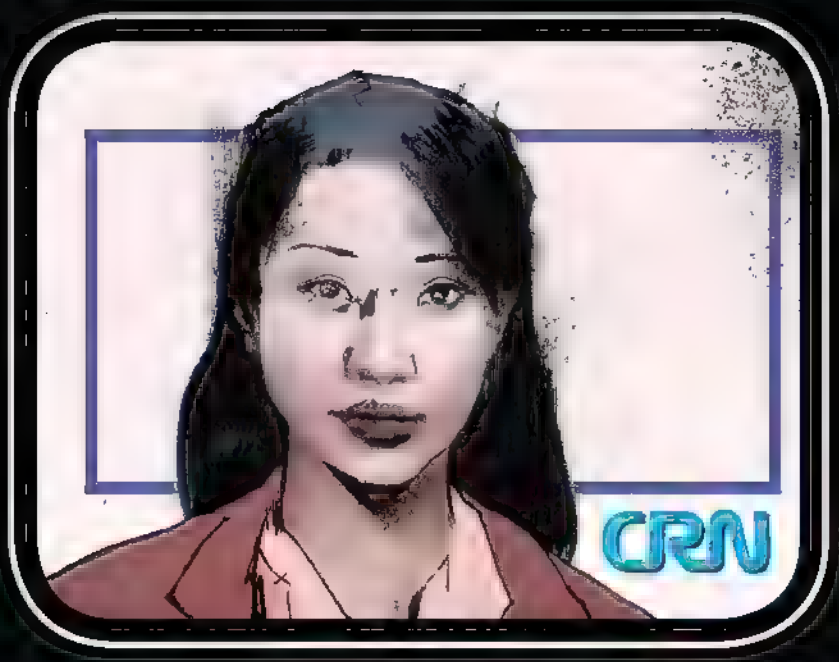
WELL, WE APPRECIATE YOU LINKING UP FOR THIS INTERVIEW, WHEREVER YOU MIGHT BE.

BUT AS YOU KNOW, EVER SINCE YOU WENT PUBLIC, YOUR WARNINGS ABOUT HOLDING OUR LEADERS ACCOUNTABLE, HAS LED TO A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION BEING BROUGHT TO LIGHT NOT ONLY HERE IN AMERICA, BUT AROUND THE WORLD.

THERE'S EVEN A GROWING PORTION OF THE POPULATION THAT SAY YOU SHOULD BE CREDITED WITH HELPING TO SETTLE DOWN THE FINANCIAL MARKETS AND BRINGING ABOUT MUCH NEEDED TRUST WITH SO MANY PROMINENT RESIGNATIONS. HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?

BECAUSE MANY ARE CALLING YOU A TRUE "SUPER-HERO?" ARE YOU PREPARED TO TAKE ON THAT MANTLE?
I'M PREPARED TO HELP WHEREVER I CAN. BUT FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ARE THINGS EVERY INDIVIDUAL SHOULD FIGHT FOR. NOT ONLY FOR THEMSELVES, BUT FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THEIR NATIONS.
BUT HERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE EVERYONE TO KNOW. THOSE THAT TRIED TO SUPPRESS VITAL INFORMATION, WILL DO SO AGAIN. SO, THIS BRIEF CALM SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED
LATER, ON ANOTHER NETWORK
THAT'S RIDICULOUS! AND YOU KNOW IT! YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BELIEVE...
BURY YOUR HEAD ALL YOU WANT--I KNOW MANY OF THEM ARE STILL OUT THERE. SO, TELL YOUR FRIENDS WE KNOW WHO THEY ARE!
SLIGHTLY LATER
I CAN TELL YOU, MANY FOLKS I'VE TALKED TO SAID THEY WOULD SUPPORT YOU IF YOU RAN FOR OFFICE ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE.
THAT'S FLATTERING. BUT YOU TELL THEM I'LL ACCOMPLISH MORE BY WORKING AS A FREE AGENT.
AS AN EX-SPECIAL OPS SOLDIER, THERE'S NO FIGHT I'LL BACK DOWN FROM.
I THINK THAT'S WHY SO MANY PEOPLE ADMIRE YOU. BECAUSE YOU ARE WILLING TO TAKE SUCH A STRONG STANCE

AND I KNOW YOU'VE SAID YOU HOPE WE ALL STEP UP OUR RESISTANCE TO THE POWERS CONTROLLING US. BUT PEOPLE ARE LOOKING AT YOU. SO, I KNOW IT WOULD MEAN A LOT TO THE AUDIENCE IF YOU COULD SHOW OFF YOUR COSTUME.
JUST REMIND US WHAT WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR
YOU MEAN NOW?
YES IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
IT...UH, WOULD TAKE A FEW MINUTES.
I'M SURE OUR VIEWERS WILL WAIT.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
LOOK, IF I WAIT OFF-CAMERA THEY'LL THINK I'M GETTING DRESSED.
SO, YOU'RE GOING TO LIE TO THEM?
I'M GOING TO GIVE THEM WHAT THEY NEED.
WHAT THEY NEED IS THE TRUTH
THEY'RE NOT CAPABLE OF KNOWING THE TRUTH.
SO, I NEED TO GIVE THEM WHAT THEY CAN HANDLE.
I'M BACK! THIS GOOD ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE?



IF YOU MISSED MY ONE-ON-ONE WITH Lt. COL. AL SIMMONS, WE'LL BE RE-AIRING OUR CANDID TALK IN ITS ENTIRETY AFTER THE 11 O'CLOCK NEWS. MR. SIMMONS AND I TOUCHED ON HIS RUMORED ROLE IN THE RECENT SHAKE-UPS AT THE TOP OF MANY FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES, AS WELL AS THE OVERALL SENSATION HIS RETURN HAS CAUSED IN THE TABLOIDS. SOME OF THE COLUMISTS THERE ARE GOING SO FAR AS TO LABEL HIM A "SUPERHERO."

OF COURSE, SIMMONS WAS QUICK TO DEFLECT SUCH TALK. INSTEAD, HE SHIFTED THE FOCUS TO PLEAD FOR CONTINUED ACTION ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC. SINCE HIS "RETURN," MR. SIMMONS HAS REPEATEDLY CALLED FOR NEWS AGENCIES AND CIVILIANS TO QUESTION THE STORIES WE'RE BEING SOLD BY OUR GOVERNMENTS, THE MEDIA, AND OUR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. AND, IT VERY MUCH SEEMS THAT HIS PRODDING HAS PAID OFF OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS. OUR LEADERS ARE BEING HELD ACCOUNTABLE BY A BURST OF NEWLY-ESTABLISHED WATCHDOG GROUPS, AND THE RECENT FINANCIAL CRISIS HAS SUBSIDED. WHETHER THIS IS A SHORT-TERM POPULIST WAVE, THOUGH, AND WHAT ITS LONG-TERM REPURCUSSIONS MAY BE, REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

EVERY POSSIBLE OUTLET IS COVERING THE CONTINUING SAGA OF Lt. COL. AL SIMMONS. FROM THE MILITARY COVER-UP THAT SAW HIM "RETURN FROM THE DEAD," TO THE NOTION THAT HE MAY JUST BE THE WORLD'S NEWEST "SUPER-HERO." SEEMS FAR-FETCHED, YES, BUT, IF YOU WERE WATCHING THIS PROGRAM EARLIER TONIGHT, YOU SAW MY WORLD-EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IN WHICH MR. SIMMONS DONNED HIS "SUPERHERO" COSTUME FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE. HOWEVER, SIMMONS, ISN'T THE ONLY STORY...

THERE'S MUCH TO DISCUSS IN THE WORLD TODAY. WE START IN ALBANIA, WHERE LESS THAN TWO WEEKS AGO A SUDDEN EXPLOSION IN A REMOTE REGION BECAME FODDER FOR CONSPIRACY THEORIES. THIS, DESPITE A RAPIDLY ASSEMBLED PRESS CONFERENCE HOSTED BY OFFICIALS FROM THE U.N., TWELVE MEMBER NATIONS AND HEADS OF TECH AND INDUSTRIAL GIANTS. IN A SHOW OF REMARKABLE UNITY, THEY PROCLAIMED THE INCIDENT AN "UNFORTUNATE MISHAP" RESULTING IN "NO INJURIES," AND WITH "NO DISCERNIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT."

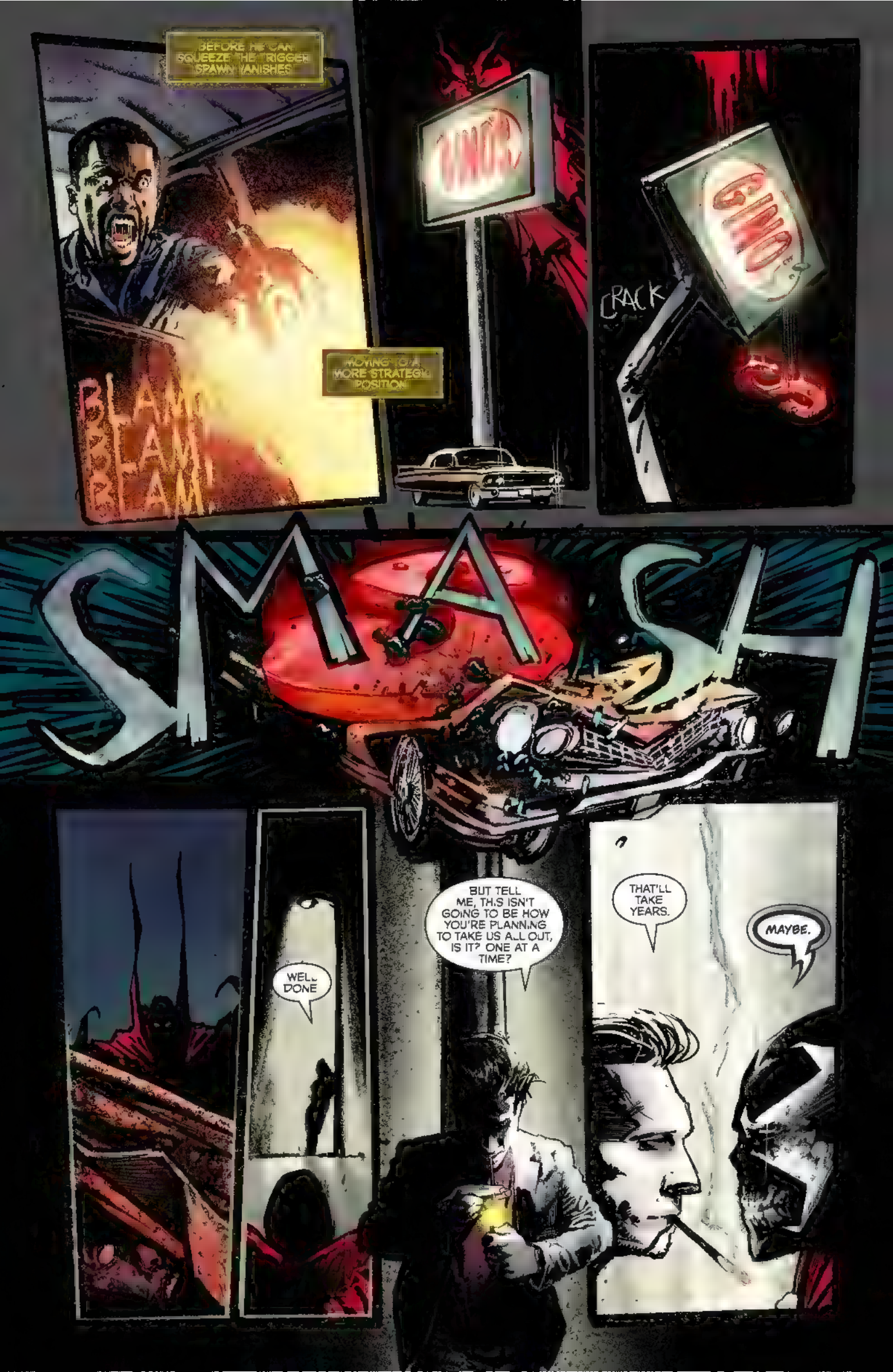
HOW THIS ALL RELATES TO THE BRIEF MOMENT OF SATELLITE AND CELLULAR DISRUPTION THAT MANY ARE SAYING WAS TIED TO THE EXPLOSION, WAS NOT ADDRESSED.

DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT!

SIMMONS MAY BE BRAVE ENOUGH TO COME ON THIS SHOW--***MY*** SHOW--AND FACE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHO HE ***REALLY*** IS AND WHAT HE'S ***REALLY*** UP TO WITH HIS "MAN OF MYSTERY" SCHTICK, BUT HE'S NO SUPERHERO. AN AMERICAN HERO, ***YES!*** NO ONE CAN TAKE A SOLDIER'S SERVICE AWAY FROM THEM, AND WE ARE ALL THANKFUL FOR THE SACRIFICE OF SIMMONS AND EVERY SOLDIER COURAGEOUS ENOUGH TO WEAR A UNIFORM. ***BUT!*** THE BUCK STOPS ***THERE!***

PAY ATTENTION, SHEEPLE! SIMMONS COMES BACK FROM GOD-KNOWS-WHERE SPOUTING CONSPIRACY THEORIES ABOUT GOVERNMENT COVER-UP AND THE DISSOLUTION OF DEMOCRACY JUST AS THE ENTIRE GLOBE IS FALLING INTO A FINANCIAL ABYSS. THEN--***MIRACULOUSLY***--THE SAME CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENT HEADS HE'S AFTER BEGIN TO ***RESIGN*** OR ***DISAPPEAR...*** OR ***WORSE!*** SURE, THE MARKETS ARE RECOVERING AND THE SUDDEN ACTS OF BLOODY VIOLENCE HAVE SLOWED, BUT HOW!? ***WHY!?*** IF THIS IS ALL SIMMONS' DOING, WHY ALL THE MYSTERY? DOESN'T SEEM VERY HEROIC TO ME. AND ***"SUPERHEROIC?"*** DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

MORRISTOWN TENNESSEE
BINGO
MAN, I THOUGHT SHE LIKED ME. MAYBE I WAS TOO 'MANLY' FOR HER. YOU THINK I SHOULD GO BACK IN AND ASK HER AGAIN?
WHY? SO, SHE CAN SLAP YOU A SECOND TIME?
IT WAS A LOVE TAP.
DUDE, THAT WASN'T A LOVE TAP THAT WAS FULL ON ANGER. I DON'T THINK SHE APPRECIATED YOU ASKING HOW SHE GOT THAT FAT. LADIES ARE SENSITIVE ABOUT THAT STUFF. AND YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID SHE REMINDED YOU OF YOUR DOG.
SHE DOES! HER EYES LOOKED JUST LIKE SPARKY'S.
WELL, TOMORROW WE'LL TRY AGAIN. I'M SURE THERE'S SOMEONE UGLY ENOUGH THAT'LL LET YOU BUY THEM A DRINK.
UH.
WHERE'S THE CAR?
IS THAT IT?
WHAT DID YOU GET?
DIDN'T THINK WE PARKED SO FAR AWAY
HOW MUCH MONEY?
SURELY YOUR BOSSES GAVE YOU SOMETHING FOR MAKING THE DEAL. FOR SUPPLYING TERRORIST. HOW ELSE WERE THEY GOING TO BE ABLE TO SLAUGHTER ALL THOSE CHILDREN? ALL THOSE WOMEN?


BEFORE HE CAN SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER, SPAWN VANISHES
MOVING TO A MORE STRATEGIC POSITION
BLAM BLAM BLAM
CRACK
SMASH
WELL DONE
BUT TELL ME, TH.S ISN'T GOING TO BE HOW YOU'RE PLANN.NG TO TAKE US ALL OUT, IS IT? ONE AT A TIME?
THAT'LL TAKE YEARS.
MAYBE.

YOU THINK YOU HAVE THAT MUCH TIME?!
TAP
THE TELEPORT TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION
WORD IS SPREADING ABOUT WHAT YOU DID IN ALBANIA.
I DON'T THINK YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE CLOWN WAS THE LEADER OF A SECRET EMPIRE BY ELIMINATING HIM YOU'VE CREATED A VACUUM. THERE'LL BE DOZENS FIGHTING TO TAKE HIS POSITION.
GOOD!
THAT'LL MAKE IT EASIER FOR ME TO FIND THEM.
THEN START WITH ME! I WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITHOUT A "REAL" SYMBIOTE COSTUME
YOU WON'T BE THAT LEADER, SANSKER. BECAUSE YOU WERE NEVER A THREAT TO START WITH.
SANSKER TRANSFORMS SHOWING HIS TRUE FORM

AAAA
THWACK
GRABBING A WEAPON FROM THE WALL, SPAWN HAS DECIDED THIS WILL BE A PHYSICAL BATTLE
BECAUSE SANSKER WAS RIGHT, SPAWN'S POWERS ARE LIMITED, AND UNTIL HE'S ABLE REPLENISH THEM, HE'LL NEED TO RESIST THE URGE TO USE HIS NECRO POWERS
EVEN IF IT COULD SAVE HIS LIFE
HE'LL NEED TO LEAN ON HIS MILITARY TRAINING INSTEAD

YOU'VE IMPROVED YOUR SKILLS, SIMMONS BUT EVEN IF YOU CAN KILL ME, OTHERS WILL COME
YOU'RE RIGHT, I COULD KILL YOU, BUT YOU'RE WORTH MORE TO ME ALIVE.
SO, GO TELL YOUR SIDE HOW WEAK I AM. HOW SUPERIOR YOU ALL ARE. AND WHILE YOU'RE GLOATING OVER YOUR GREATNESS, ASK YOURSELF, "WHY, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, HAVE NONE OF YOU KILLED ME YET?"
I'LL GLADLY BE WAITING.
AND IF ANY OF THEM WANT TO COME AFTER ME BEFORE I HUNT THEM DOWN, TELL THEM TO BRING IT ON.

"Arsenal"

ELEVEN DAYS AGO...
...FOR A WHILE, BUT HE FOUND A PIECE STILL ALIVE.
HE WILL NEED TO MAKE REGROW.

AL?

DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BACK
JUST GOT IN. SORRY, IF I DISTURBED YOU.
I WAS ALREADY AWAKE...YOU DOING OKAY?
I'M FINE
YOU'RE NOT ACTING LIKE IT.
EVERY NIGHT YOU JUST SIT HERE IN THE DARK WHY? WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M FINE
YOU KEEP SAYING THAT, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT. NOT WHEN I SEE YOU DOING ALL THOSE INTERVIEWS, THEN AFTERWARDS LOCKING YOURSELF AWAY FOR HOURS AT A TIME. THEN YOU JUST TAKE OFF.
I KNOW THIS HAS BEEN HARD ON YOU, MARC...
YOU THINK?
BUT I'VE KEPT YOU HERE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.
FROM WHAT?
EVERYTHING. MAYBE MORE. BECAUSE I THINK I SCREWED UP
MY ENEMIES TOLD ME I'D DIE IF I EVER EXPENDED ALL MY POWERS. AT TIMES I HESITATED TO EVEN USE THEM. BUT THEY WERE THE ONES THAT WERE AFRAID I'D USE THEM UP
BECAUSE IF I DID--THEY KNEW I'D TRANSFORM.
I THOUGHT YOU TOLD ME YOU STOPPED THEIR PLANS
I DID. BUT I'VE MADE MYSELF WEAKER BY DOING SO. AND THEY'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT IF THEY CAN.

SMASH
I WONDERED WHEN YOU'D F.NALLY SHOW

I KNEW YOU'D COME HERE, EVENTUALLY
SPAWN SWINGS WILDLY BUT EACH ATTEMPT PASSES THROUGH THE HORNED STRANGER
HOW CAN I DEFEAT AN ADVERSARY THAT ONE MOMENT CAN'T BE TOUCHED?
AND THE NEXT IS STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP SPAWN IN HIS TRACKS
DO YOU KNOW THE RIPPLE EFFECT YOUR EXPLOSION HAD? WHAT YOU'VE UNLEASHED? I DOUBT IT.
BECAUSE YOU MAY HAVE DESTROYED A FEW ENEMIES, BUT AT WHAT COST? YOU'VE SET INTO MOTION EVENTS THAT COULD CONSUME THIS PLANET.

HEAVEN AND HELL AREN'T THE ONLY PLAYERS IN YOUR WAR! THERE'S A POWER BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN BOTH OF THEM--AND NOW YOU'VE WOKEN IT FROM ITS SLUMBER.
AND IF YOU THINK YOUR SYMBIOTE'S GOING TO PROTECT YOU, IT WON'T. LOOK AT IT...IT'S REVERTED TO ITS EARLIEST FORM. BECAUSE IT'S AFRAID AND IT SHOULD BE.
WHY'RE YOU TELLING ME THIS?
BECAUSE IF I DON'T, YOU WON'T LAST VERY LONG AND I NEED YOU ALIVE SO THEY'LL ALL FOCUS ON YOU, WHICH WILL MAKE MY MISSION MUCH EASIER. SO, I'M NOT LETTING YOU WALK OUT OF HERE WITH ANY WEAPONS, IF THEY'LL JUST BE WASTED ON YOU AND YOUR COSTUME...
SINCE NEITHER OF YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE GOT THE STAMINA FOR THIS WAR
SPAWN KEPT BACK INTO THE SHADOWS
YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT TWO THINGS...

FIRST, I DON'T NEED A COSTUME OR A SYMBIOTE TO SHOW ANYONE MY STRENGTH! THOSE AREN'T RULES I'M PLAYING BY ANYMORE.
AND IF I'M SO WEAK, WHY HAVEN'T YOU MADE YOUR MOVE? INSTEAD OF MAKING THREATS.
ARROGANCE WON'T SAVE YOU FROM THIS WAR.
IT'S NOT ARROGANCE... IT'S CONFIDENCE. WHICH TAKES ME TO THE SECOND POINT YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT... I AM TAKING THOSE WEAPONS TONIGHT...

THE ONLY QUESTION IS WHETHER I KILL YOU *BEFORE* WALKING OUT OF HERE WITH A BAG OF THEM

"Brotherhood"

THE MACHINE WAS FLASHING WHEN HE GOT HOME.
IT HAD BEEN YEARS SINCE GREG LAST RECEIVED A *META-SIGNAL*, AN ALERT WARNING OF EXISTENTIAL ACTIVITY. MACHINE BUILT WITH HIS BROTHER DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER AT *SKYBOUND RESEARCH*.
THOUGH BOTH WERE TERMINATED SOON AFTER FOR FRAUDULENT LAB REPORTS INDICATING THE MACHINE CAPABLE OF DETECTING AN AFTERLIFE.
HIS BROTHER BECAME OBSESSED WITH REBUILDING THE MACHINE AND CHASING A CREATURE HE CALLED THE SPAWN.
DEPRESSION, DRUGS AND ALCOHOL LED HIS BROTHER TO SEVERE BOUTS OF PARANOIA.
STARWARD OFFICES
THAT'S WHEN HE DISAPPEARED.

IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS OF SEARCHING FOR HIM
BUT THE BROTHERS HAD IMPLANTED DNA CHIPS INTO ONE ANOTHER, LINKING THEIR BIOMETRICS WHENEVER A POTENTIAL 'AFTERLIFE' WAS NEAR EITHER OF THEM
BUT NOW, IF A SIGNAL WAS BEING SENT, IT MEANS AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, HE MAY HAVE A CHANCE TO FINALLY FIND HIS BROTHER
BUT THE TECH GEAR BUILT TO FIND HIM IS ALSO A BEACON FOR THE 'DARKNESS,' WHERE THE AFTERLIFE LIKES TO STAY HIDDEN

LIKE COCKROACHES, THEY'RE QUICK TO A ONCE EXPOSED
KRASH
shit.

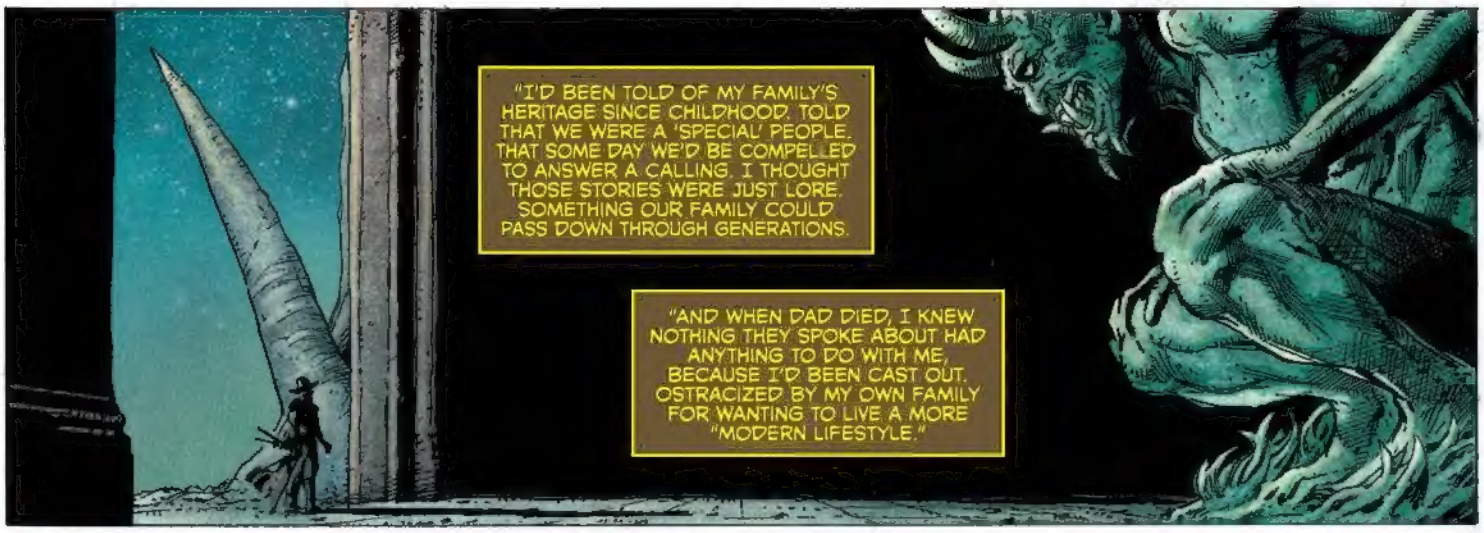
TAKES GREG A BRIEF MOMENT TO PROCESS WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND HIM. EVERYTHING'S MOVING SO FAST
BUT HE THINKS OF HIS BROTHER AND HOW IF HE'S ACTUALLY HERE SHOULD HE POSSIBLY SURVIVE ANY OF THIS

KILL. THEM. ALL.
WAIT...
THUD

LET'S GO, BEFORE OTHERS DETECT US.
..I KNOW THIS ONE.
BRIAN? MY GOD... IS THAT REALLY YOU?
FREAK! WE HAVE TO GO.
WHAT'S HAPPENED? WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE THAT?
WHO IS BRIAN?
WHAT? YOU'RE BRIAN MY BROTHER FORGET IT, IT DOESN'T MATTER RIGHT NOW I JUST NEED TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE
YOU WORKED AT... SKYBOUND?
YES! THAT'S RIGHT! YOU REMEMBER
GREG?

SHUH
I REMEMBER YOU WENT BACK TO WORK FOR THEM. HELPED THEM BUILD WEAPONS THAT DESTROY INNOCENT LIVES. THAT CONTINUE TO DESTROY LIVES.
BUT NOW, I'M A HERO.
AND HEROES DON'T HAVE TIME FOR BROTHERS.

"Sacrifice"


"I'D BEEN TOLD OF MY FAMILY'S HERITAGE SINCE CHILDHOOD. TOLD THAT WE WERE A 'SPECIAL' PEOPLE. THAT SOME DAY WE'D BE COMPELLED TO ANSWER A CALLING. I THOUGHT THOSE STORIES WERE JUST LORE. SOMETHING OUR FAMILY COULD PASS DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS.
"AND WHEN DAD DIED, I KNEW NOTHING THEY SPOKE ABOUT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME, BECAUSE I'D BEEN CAST OUT. OSTRACIZED BY MY OWN FAMILY FOR WANTING TO LIVE A MORE "MODERN LIFESTYLE."

"THEY TURNED THEIR BACK ON ME, SO I DID THE SAME TO THEM.
"I DIDN'T NEED THEM. THEIR HERITAGE. OR THEIR SUPERSTITIONS. THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
"I WAS WRONG.

"BECAUSE FOR TWO YEARS NOW I'VE BEEN TORTURED, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, WITH VOICES SCREAMING IN MY HEAD TELLING ME TO PREPARE FOR A DARKNESS. FOR UNIMAGINABLE PAIN.

"THOSE VOICES NEVER LEAVE ME ALONE. EVER!
"SO, I'M GOING TO STOP THOSE VOICES."

"AND I PRAY THAT THE DARKNESS WILL TAKE ME AWAY. WILL HIDE ME.
"HIDE ME FROM MY CALLING."

BEHIND THE SCENES OF SPAWN 301

Page 22 Pencils by Jerome Opeña

Page 22 Inks by Todd McFarlane

Page 22 Colors by Matt Hollingsworth

Page 52 Art by Jason Shawn Alexander

Page 52 Colors by Peter Steigerwald

1000'S OF PAGES
100'S OF CHARACTERS
DOZENS OF CREATORS
7 IMAGE PARTNERS
3 DECADES

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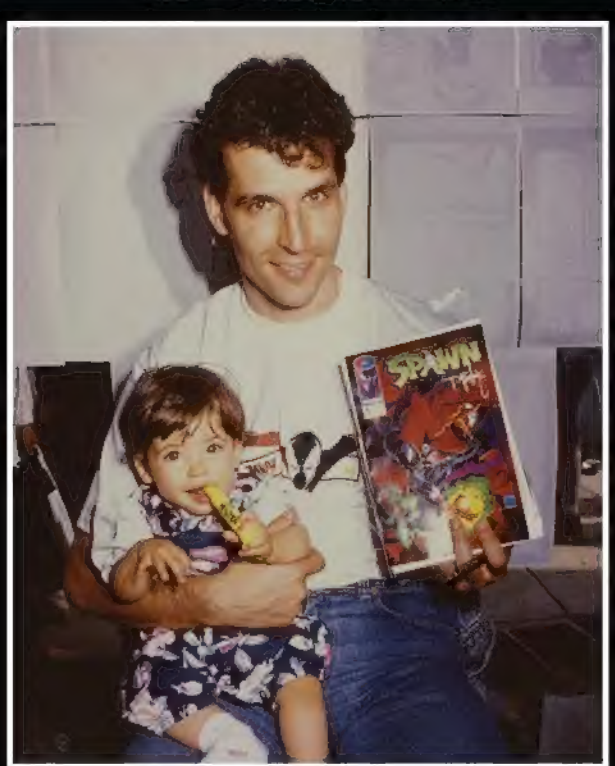
1 RECORD

JUNE 1992, SPAWN 1



TODD & CYAN (INFANT)

OCTOBER 2019, SPAWN 301

TODD & CYAN (NOW A DOCTOR)

(THAT'S HOW LONG IT TOOK!)